

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 01931 062006 Z

45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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R 061801 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7159

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XA, CG, BE, CH, PFOR, ZA, UG

SUBJECT: MOBUTO INTERVIEW

1. SUMMARY: MOBUTU PRESS INTERVIEW PUBLISHED APRIL 6 INCLUDED COMMENTS ON CHINA TRIP, CHINESE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, DISPUTE WITH CATHOLIC CHURCH, ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA, CRITICISM BY AMIN, AND FOREIGN BUSINESS IN ZAIRE. END SUMMARY

2. EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU PUBLISHED IN LE SOIR APRIL 6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM JOURNALIST ETIENNE EGEUX IN PARIS, MOBUTO BEGAN BY ASSERTING THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO RADICALIZE ZAIRIAN REVOLUTION AND PLACE FIRST PRIORITY ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BEFORE HIS VISIT TO CHINA. WHAT CHINA VISIT HAD SHOWN HIM, HOWEVER, WAS PROGRESS WHICH COUNTRY WITH HISTORY OF FOREIGN DOMINATION COULD ACCOMPLISH WITH MINIMUM MEANS. UNFAVORABLY COMPARING DEVELOPMENT UNDER WESTERN SYSTEM IN ZAIRE TO PROGRESS IN CHINA, HE SPOKE ENTHUSIASTICALLY OF ABSENCE IN CHINA OF PRISONS, FLIES, AND VENEREAL DISEASE. HE DECLARED SIMILAR PROGRESS COULD BE REALIZED IN ZAIRE WITH HELP OF CHINESE TECHNICIANS WHO WOULD COST LESS THAN WESTERN PERSONNEL AND COULD LIVE WITHOUT FANCY AMENITIES. AT SAME TIME, TO SUCCEED IN TASK OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION, ZAIRIANS MUST HAVE DISCIPLINE AND

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 01931 062006 Z

RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY, AND CANNOT AFFORD SUCH WESTERN LUXURIES AS MILITANT TRADE UNIONS. ZAIRE IS NOW IN STATE OF TOTAL MOBILIZATION IN WHICH PEOPLE HAVE REACTED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO EXTRA WORK FOR GOOD OF COMMUNITY AND IN WHICH MASS EDUCATION PROGRAM HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN THROUGH RADIO AND TELEVISION.

3. ON SUBJECT OF CHURCH- STATE RELATIONS, MOBUTU SAID ZAIRE AND ITS RULING PARTY COULD NOT ACCEPT DOMINATION OF OUTSIDE INSTITUTION WHETHER IT BE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, OR RELIGIOUS. HE POINTED OUT THAT ZAIRIANS WORSHIPPED GOD BEFORE ARRIVAL OF EUROPEANS AND THAT WEST DID NOT HAVE RIGHT TO IMPOSE CONCEPT OF GOD ON OTHERS. MOBUTU SAID THAT COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION AND PRIVATE COMPANIES HAD CEDED THEIR PRIVILEGED POSITION IN ZAIRE AND THERE WAS NO REASON CHURCH SHOULD NOT DO LIKEWISE. ACCUSING ZAIRIAN BISHOPS OF BEING AGENTS OF ALIEN SERVICE, HE NOTED THAT HE HAD NEVER HAD PROBLEM WITH PROTESTANTS OR KIMBANGUISTS BECAUSE THEY NOT DIRECTED FROM OUTSIDE. IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN CONSTITUTION OR POWERS OF PRESIDENT TO COMBAT THREAT HE WILL SAY SO FORTHRIGHTLY. IN MEANTIME ZAIRIAN BISHOPS MUST REMAIN IN THEIR DIOCESES AND RESTRICT THEMSELVES TO RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON RELATIONS WITH ZAMBIA, MOBUTU SAID HE HAD PUT DOLS 1 MILLION AT DISPOSITION OF THE COUNTRY AND THAT ZAIRIAN TROOPS REMAIN ON 24- HOUR ALERT TO FLY TO ZAMBIAN ASSISTANCE IF NECESSARY. REGARDING REPORT THAT PRESIDENT AMIN HAD SAID MOBUTU'S MEETING AT ARUSHA WITH KAUNDA AND NYERERE HAD BEEN DESIGNED TO CAUSE DIFFICULTY FOR AMIN AND THAT OBOTE HAD BEEN PRESENT, MOBUTU CALLED IT " SATANIC" FOR AFRICAN COUNTRY TO SAY SUCH THINGS. WHEN HEARING SUCH NONSENSE, HE WONDERS WHEN " COMEDY IN AFRICA WILL CEASE."

5. ON BELGIAN ZAIRIAN RELATIONS MOBUTU INDICATED THAT BELGIAN BUSINESSMEN IN ZAIRE MUST BE MORE COMPETITIVE AND DYNAMIC AND SEARCH FOR NEW SOLUTIONS SINCE THEY ARE NO LONGER IN " CONGO DE PAPA". HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT ZAIRE HAD NO INTENTION OF NATIONALIZING PROPERTIES, AND THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD VIOLATE ZAIRIAN INVESTMENT CODE. HE SPOKE ALSO OF COMPETITION CHEAPER CHINESE GOODS WOULD PRESENT TO WESTERN

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 01931 062006 Z

SUPPLIERS. REGARDING HIS CONTACTS WITH LEADERS OF BELGIAN

SOCIALIST PARTY, MOBUTU DENIED THAT MPR IS IDEOLOGICALLY  
ORIENTED BUT POINTED OUT THAT SOCIALISTS APPEARED TO BE  
SYMPATHETIC TO HIM AND HIS COUNTRY.

6. FULL TEXT POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AND KINSHASA.  
STRAUSZ- HUPE

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